

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

AUGUST 25, 2003 MEETINGS – Finance and Facilities Committee of the Whole Meeting

August 25, 2003

I. CALL TO ORDER

Finance Vice Chairman, Charlene Harris, called a Finance and Facilities Committee of the Whole Meeting of the School Committee to order in the committee room at city hall at 6:40 p.m., to discuss updates on Buildings, Capuano Early Childhood Center, Staffing, and Operations.

II. ROLL CALL

Present were Mr. Sullivan, Ms. Cardoso, Ms. Harris, Ms. Rossetti, and Ms. Taylor.

Mayor Gay, Alderman O'Donovan, Ms. Bauer and Ms. Murray were absent.

Dr. Albert F. Argenziano, Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Marie B. Ferrari, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Administration, Dr. Steven F. Jenkins, District Administrator for Student Services, Mr. Robert A. Ciampi, Facilities Personnel & Property Services Director, and Mr. Michael Foley, Project Manager were also present, along with five members of the audience.

III. BUILDINGS UPDATE

Mr. Ciampi reported there are five days until the start of school and buildings are in good shape for the opening days of school. He gave an update on the elevator problems at the Powder House Community School, which is not expected to be on line for another two-three weeks, the West Somerville Neighborhood School, which has a sixty-day extension, and reported that the elevator at the Boys and Girls Club has been repaired and is scheduled to be inspected this week. He informed the members that there were several moves that took place this summer. Unidos and the Edgerly are done and everything clean. SMILE, across the city, has been moved in to the Capuano Early Childhood Center. Concerning the exterior of the buildings, and the schoolyards, Mr. Ciampi reported this is the final week of clean up and the work on the outside of all facilities is being done, as usual, these last few days. Mr. Ciampi answered questions asked by members and let the committee know that the work orders would be provided to them shortly.

IV. CAPUANO EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER UPDATE

Dr. Argenziano invited Mr. Michael Foley, Project Manager, to this evening's meeting to meet with the committee. He stated that Mr. Foley has done an outstanding job as Project Manager of the Capuano Early Childhood Center and mentioned that we are not only on time with this project, we are also under budget. He then invited Mr. Foley to give an update to members. Mr. Foley first discussed the difficulty and the process that took place regarding the problems that occurred with the elevator and informed the committee that it is now operating, as of last Tuesday morning, and inspection is scheduled for Thursday, August 28th. He brought the committee up to date regarding all the final inspections, i.e., Board of Health, Building Inspection, Fire Department, etc. Regarding the furnishings, there are just a few pieces on back order, which should be in by school opening. The telephones are up and running in all the classrooms. The move has been very successful so far and the teachers start moving in this Monday. When

IV. CAPUANO EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER UPDATE

people walk into the building Mr. Foley stated, that with the impression the teachers had today, on Thursday's walk-through, it will be an awesome, awesome sight. When complete with his update, brief discussion took place and Mr. Foley responded to questions school committee members had.

There is a neighborhood walk-through tour of the Michael E. Capuano Early Childhood Center on Thursday night at 6:00 p.m. and a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Tuesday, September 2, 2003 at 10:00 a.m.

V. STAFFING UPDATE

In the absence of Mr. Caliri, Human Resources Manager, Superintendent Dr. Argenziano gave an update to the members regarding staffing. We presently have 85 less people in our organization. A year ago our organization was at 1180, and we are now at 1095. The Superintendent informed the committee there are 26 paraprofessionals yet to be hired, 20 are special education, 6 are non special education and this week most of them will be in place; 4 custodial openings, (2 deaths, 2 people took early retirement), presently no one has bid on the openings. There are 2 secretarial openings. He discussed the teaching positions open, the coverage that took place and options that would occur if necessary.

The Superintendent informed the committee that under a professional development grant, he has hired Sarah Slive as a second language person for the community outreach. Luigi Palazzo will be a counselor/tester and Yvonne Gunzburger will be at the high school for English Language Learners.

Discussion also took place regarding the 2003-2004 projected enrollment. Two issues referred to were sheltered immersion pupils with a total of 396, and also the high numbers in Kindergarten enrollment. Dr. Argenziano and Dr. Jenkins clarified the items that were brought up and answered questions asked by members.

Ms. Rossetti brought to the attention of members she would like to take a vote regarding the contingency account discussed at previous meetings with the Board of Aldermen. She would like to ask the Board of Aldermen and the Mayor to consider having the contingency money, now, go to education in order to allow bringing people back. Discussion followed. No action taken.

Dr. Argenziano brought up two items for discussion:

1. A bid was received from Community Action Agency of Somerville, Inc. (CAAS) for the rental of the old Edgerly School – RFP Price Proposal listing Square feet 15,470; proposed unit price per square foot \$4.00; total annual proposed price = \$61,880.00. The Superintendent advised he is recommending approval and will mention this item during the regular school committee meeting.
2. Somerville Pop Warner Football, Inc. is requesting permission for the use of the East Somerville Community School gym with all fees being waived for cheerleading practice sessions. Ms. Rossetti expressed she would like the committee to approve the waiving of the building use fees for the cheerleading practice sessions. Discussion among members took place. This item will be brought up during the regular school committee meeting.

VI. OPERATIONS UPDATE

Due to the time constraint of the meeting, Ms. Ferrari was unable to report on the operations update.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m., by voice vote.

Dr. Albert F. Argenziano
Secretary

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

AUGUST 25, 2003 SPECIAL MEETING

August 25, 2003

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mary Jo Rossetti called a Special Meeting of the School Committee to order in the aldermanic chambers at 8:15 p.m., with a moment of silence and a salute to the flag of the United States of America.

II. ROLL CALL

Present were Ms. Cardoso, Ms. Harris, Mayor Gay, Alderman O'Donovan, Mr. Sullivan, Ms. Taylor and Ms. Rossetti.

Ms. Bauer and Ms. Murray were absent.

III. CALL OF SPECIAL MEETING

The secretary read the call of the special meeting, for the consideration of any and all business that might come before the school committee.

IV. AWARDS AND CITATIONS

There were no presentations made this evening.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes were approved as follows by voice vote:

June 11, 2003:

- Public Budget Hearing/FY04
- Finance and Facilities Committee of the Whole Meeting

June 16, 2003:

- Finance and Facilities Committee of the Whole Meeting
- Regular Meeting

June 30, 2003:

- Finance and Facilities Committee of the Whole
- Special Meeting

VI. STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Student representative Maya Nitzberg was not present this evening.

VII. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Argenziano reported on the following items:

1. The Superintendent of Schools welcomed everyone back for the 2003-2004 school year.

VII. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT (cont.)

2. During the summer, weekly packets of information were provided to members. Items mentioned are for review with the committee and to also inform the public of some of the things that have occurred during the summer.
3. The Superintendent announced notification of a 21st Century Grant for \$285,000.00 the school department will be receiving over the next five years, specifically for grades 4-8 at the Healey School, Winter Hill Community School, and Powder House Community School after school programs. Dr. Argenziano extended his congratulations to Ms. Susan Gross, Administrator of Community Schools, for assisting us in receiving this grant.
4. The Superintendent announced that the Capuano Early Childhood Center will be opening on Wednesday, September 3, 2003, on time and under budget. On Thursday, August 28, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. there will be a neighborhood walk-through of the school. On Tuesday, September 2, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony will take place. Congressman Capuano and his family will be at the ceremony to cut the ribbon and to unveil a plaque that he has donated to the school.
5. The new Lincoln Park Community School plans have been submitted to the Department of Education and have been approved. The Superintendent reminded the community that Somerville is one of twenty eight projects that were under the four year moratorium put on by Governor Romney. A copy of the letter sent to the School Building Assistance Bureau will be enclosed in this week's packet.
6. The K-8 survey of our parents, prepared by Ms. Sarah Slive, was provided to members this summer.
7. Also provided to members during the summer was an evaluation of our TBE programs which was the last part of our Office of Civil Rights review that began in 1990 and ended in 2003.
8. The Superintendent announced for opening day we are planning to open our doors to 6004 students and also reported that with our transfers/moves, usually found out the first week of school, the enrollment will be between 5850 and 5900.
9. Dr. Argenziano reported that one year ago we had 1180 staff members. Due to the layoffs, there will be 85 less people in our organization. Our staff opening the doors this year will be 1095.
10. The Superintendent informed the public the work done in our buildings is complete and we are ready for opening day. Everything other than the Powder House Community School elevator will be up and operable.
11. On Wednesday, September 3, 2003 at 12:45 p.m., there will be a general meeting where the Chairman of the School Committee, the Mayor of the City of Somerville, and the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Argenziano, will welcome back the staff. At the suggestion of committee member, Ms. Taylor, the Superintendent was able to arrange for Ms. Louise Amyot, a Nutritionist from Shape Up America, to be our guest speaker.

VII. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT (cont.)

12. Dr. Argenziano reported we had nineteen school side people take advantage of the early retirement program (12 paraprofessionals, 4 secretaries and 3 custodians).
13. The Superintendent received notification from Ms. Carole Gilberti that a \$749,000.00 Federal (84.184A) Grant to Reduce Alcohol Abuse for year two has been received. Dr. Argenziano reminded members this funds our CASPAR Program. A copy of the award notice is provided to members.
14. Enclosed is a 2003-2004 opening packet memorandum to Administrators from Mr. Robert Snow, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, outlining responsibilities for the work year.
15. Provided to members are the Somerville Public Schools *Parent Guardian Guide*, *Colleague Guide*, and *Somerville High School Student Handbook* for 2003-2004.
16. Enclosed is a copy of the 4th grade water safety station schedule, prepared by Mr. Richard Cheney, Director of Pool Facilities.
17. Dr. Argenziano publicly thanked Mr. Michael Foley, for his outstanding work as Project Manager for the Michael E. Capuano Early Childhood Center. The Superintendent reported that this project was completed on time and also under budgeted. Dr. Argenziano also expressed thanks to Mr. Robert Ciampi, the Custodians, Mr. David Dow, the D.P.W. Workers and the Secretaries.

VIII. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. *Finance and Facilities Committee of the Whole:* Ms. Harris, Vice Chair (August 25)

Ms. Harris reported on the following items that were discussed during this evening's meeting.

- ✓ Building Update, presented by Mr. Robert Ciampi
- ✓ Capuano Center Update, presented by Mr. Michael Foley
- ✓ Staffing Update – presented by Superintendent Dr. Argenziano

Due to the time constraint of the Finance Meeting there was no Operations Update given.

Ms. Harris reported during the Finance meeting there was discussion regarding the waiving of building use fees for the Somerville Pop Warner Football, Inc. for cheerleading practice sessions. After discussion it was decided this item would be brought up during the regular school committee meeting.

MOTION: Ms. Harris made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cardoso, to waive fees for the Somerville Pop Warner Cheerleaders requesting permission to use the East Somerville Community School gym from September 9th through October 23, 2003.

Lengthy discussion followed. School Committee members shared their comments and concerns regarding this request. Ms. Cardoso withdrew the motion.

VIII. REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEES (cont.)

MOTION: Mayor Gay made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cardoso, to table discussion of waiving the building use fees for the Somerville Pop Warner Cheerleaders.

The motion was approved by voice vote. For the record, Ms. Harris wished to be recorded as voting present.

Committee member, Ms. Cardoso, left the Chambers during discussion of the following item.

Dr. Argenziano reported another item discussed during the Finance Meeting was use of the Edgerly Education Center. During discussion the Superintendent advised he would recommend approval of this item during the regular school committee meeting. He then addressed the committee and briefly reminded members that over the summer an RFP for use of the Edgerly Education Center was received. The total annual proposed price is \$61,880.00. The Superintendent is recommending approval to give the space at the Edgerly Education Center to the Community Action Agency of Somerville, Inc. from September 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004, and the total amount of money would be put in to the School Building Use revolving account.

MOTION: Mr. O'Donovan made a motion, seconded by Mayor Gay, that the Somerville School Department provides the space at the Edgerly Education Center (15,470 sq. ft. @ \$4.00 per sq. ft. for a total amount of \$61,880.00.) from September 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004, to the Community Action Agency of Somerville, Inc. and those funds be placed in the School Building Use revolving account.

The motion was approved by a roll call vote of: Yes—6—Harris, Gay, O'Donovan, Sullivan, Taylor and Rossetti; Absent—3—Cardoso, Bauer and Murray.

Ms. Cardoso returned to the Chambers for the remainder of this evening's meeting.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business this evening.

X. NEW BUSINESS

MOTION: Alderman O'Donovan made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cardoso, to waive readings, excluding the Somerville representatives. The motion was approved by voice vote.

A. FY2003 SCALE/ADP Graduates

Ms. Susan L. Barnard, SCALE Supervisor, recommended that the following students, who have successfully completed the requirements for graduation from SCALE, be granted their diplomas. Approved by voice vote.

X. NEW BUSINESS (cont.)

Stephanie Rita West	45 Temple Street	Somerville	02145
Yu-Lung Mary Hui	7 Mildred Street	Lynn	01901
April Frances Imbrescia	50 Woodland Road	Revere	02151
Yelizka Martinez	12 West Street, #2	Everett	02149
Lauren Marie Todd	8 Andrew Street	Wilmington	01887
Konstantin Vaysband	28 Laurel Wood Drive	Stoughton	02072

B. FY2003 SCALE/ADP Graduates

Ms. Susan L. Barnard, SCALE Supervisor, recommended that the following students, who have successfully completed the requirements for graduation from SCALE, be granted their diplomas. Approved by voice vote.

Elida T. Barceloni	37 Putnam Road	Somerville	02145
Marc Andrew Fitzmaurice	81 Partridge Avenue	Somerville	02145
Melissa Marie Hanson	207 Highland Avenue	Somerville	02143
Crystal Lee Legaski	13 Ellsworth Street	Somerville	02145
Elder John Lopes	45 Glen Street	Somerville	02145
Thomas Michael Miller, Jr.	10 Bartlett Street	Somerville	02145
Ivan Alandzak	154 Magnolia Avenue,	Gloucester	01930
Robert Andrew Annable	1 Millbrook Lane, #210	Wakefield	01880
Annie Rose Duong	9 Christina Circle	Everett	02149
Nelson A. Evereteze	189 Windsor Street	Cambridge	02139
Darin James Ray Kimball	11 Lake Street	Amesbury	01913
Kelly Jeanne Maginnis	152 Tremont Street	Malden	02148
Aaron James Nugent	15 Preswick Lane	Mashpee	02649
Sarina Michel Pagliaro	62 Paris Street	Everett	02149
Gregory G. Pique	35 Hamlet Street	Newton	02459
Antonio N. Raptis	4 Elwood Street	Everett	02149
Jennifer R. Rodgers	333 Market Street	Brighton	02135

C. Foodservice Department:

1. Participation in National School Lunch & Breakfast Program

The superintendent recommended that the school committee vote to participate in the National School Lunch & Breakfast Program, and the Commodity Food Distribution Program, in conformity with requirements of the State Bureau of Nutrition Education and School Food Services. Approved by voice vote.

2. Statement of Intent to Participate in Direct Certification -

The superintendent notified that the Somerville School Department would be participating in Direct Certification for the 2003-04 school year, as in previous years. Received and placed on file.

XI. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Alderman O'Donovan

1. Expressed thanks to the Superintendent and his staff for an easy opening to the school year.
2. Dr Argenziano responded to Alderman O'Donovan's request to explain what the number of people taking the early retirement plan means in dollars. The Superintendent explained there is no savings to the school department, other than people are put back to work instead of on the unemployment rolls. As of right now, there are 85 less people in our organization. If 12 paraprofessionals are called back to work; and if a civil service list is received for 2 custodians and 2 secretaries, the total is 16, therefore, we would go from 85 to 69 people unemployed. Originally we were at 120. This means that as many people the school department can bring back to work, the net savings is to the city.

Mayor Gay

1. Thanked Superintendent Argenziano and all of the dedicated school workers for making sure our schools opened on time and ready. The Mayor stated everything looked wonderful due to the great job the custodians and school workers have done to get schools ready, and especially the Capuano Early Childhood Center. We are ahead all across the city and Mayor Gay thanked everyone for their team work.
2. Is looking forward to the opening of the Capuano Early Childhood Center on September 2nd, and expressed her thanks to the dedication committee, Chairperson, Ms. Ellie Blute, Principal, Mr. Francis Ferraro, and all the teachers for a job well done. The Mayor encouraged the public to join in on the neighborhood walk-through that is scheduled for Thursday evening, August 28th at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Sullivan

1. Commended the Mayor and her administration, Dr. Argenziano and Mr. Michael Foley for doing a great job on the Capuano Early Childhood Center. Mr. Sullivan also mentioned that Thursday, August 28th, at 6:00 p.m., there is a walk through of the school and encouraged the entire Somerville community to join in. The grand opening will take place on Tuesday, September 2nd, at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Sullivan thanked Ms. Ellie Blute, Committee Chairperson for a great job and for her efficiency in getting things done.

Ms. Cardoso

1. Gave an update concerning Amber Lily DaRosa. Last year at this time Ms. Cardoso came before the committee to report that Amber Lily DaRosa was ill. Amber has just finished a whole year of therapy and is doing very well. She recently turned five years old and is able to begin school next week; she will be entering Kindergarten at the Kennedy School. Ms. Cardoso distributed a flyer to school committee members and also informed the public that on Sunday, September 21st, Amber will be one of the poster children for the Jimmy Fund Walk-A-Thon for cancer. The event is being televised on Ch. 56. If anyone is interested in making a donation, they may do so through the Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund walk for the Dana Farber Institute.

XII. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications for this evening's meeting.

XIII. PERSONNEL

School Committee members were notified and accepted the following personnel actions of August 25, 2003 as follows:

A. Early Retirement Incentive

1. Christine Leavitt, 159 Main St., Stoneham, MA 02180 (Principal Clerk/Administrative Offices) effective August 23, 2003.
2. Victoria Mahoney, 5 Dell St., Somerville, MA 02145 (Program Specialist/Community Schools) effective August 23, 2003.

B. Resignations

1. Daniel Harrington, 620 East Merrimack St., Lowell, MA 01852 (7th/8th grade Math Teacher @ WSNS) effective July 29, 2003.
2. Catherine Arcolio, 9 Beacon Place, Somerville, MA 02143 (Paraprofessional @ Healey School) effective July 9, 2003.
3. Leslie Garziano, 4 Elko St., Brighton, MA 02135 (Asst. Teacher for School Age Children) effective 7/18/03.
4. Megan deRiesthal, 59 Barbour Rd., New Britain, CT 06053, (ESL Teacher at ESCS) effective August 6, 2003. Absence

C. Unpaid Leave of Absence

1. Jacqueline Duperval, 132 Sherman St., Cambridge, MA 02140 (Paraprofessional) effective the 2003/04 school year.
2. Angela Volpe, 17 Westgate Rd., Derry, NH 03038 (Paraprofessional @ Healey School) for the 2003/04 school year.

D. Paternity Leave of Absence

1. David Aronosky, 25 Dennis Drive, Salem, NH 03079, Teacher @ Next Wave effective November 2003 for 10 days.

E. Appointments

Administrative

Evening School Principal
Effective 8/15/03 to 6/30/04
Vice: D. Loyer (term expired)

Mary L. Ripley
18 Lincoln St.
Stoneham, MA 02180

XIII. PERSONNEL (cont.)

F. Authorizations

High School

Math Teacher (Portuguese)
Effective 9/2/03
Vice: New Position

Maria L. deOliveira
1642 East 56th St. Apt. 410
Chicago, Illinois 60637
Illinois, Mathematics 6-12 #1796491

SPED

Re-Hired

Literacy Teacher Alternative Program
Effective 9/3/03
Vice: New Position

Lauren Kelly
23 Gloria Rd.
W. Roxbury, MA 02132

XIV. MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Gay reported with regret the death of the following person:

- o John Joseph O'Brien, (August 21), brother of Sheila Howe, Somerville High School secretary.

Ms. Cardoso reported with regret the deaths of the following persons:

- o Mr. & Mrs. Ross Brimer, (July 2003), Ward 2 residents, well known in the community.

The superintendent reported with regret the deaths of the following persons.

1. Michael John Smithers, (August 22), former Somerville student.
2. Robert E. Papaluca, (July 22), Custodian, Somerville Public Schools
3. William M. Coleman, (August 5), Custodian, Somerville Public Schools
4. Calvin G. Cerrato, (August 2), husband of Mary Cerrato, secretary at Somerville High School.
5. Josephine Abucewicz, (August 1), mother of Bron Abucewicz, former Network Manager, Somerville Public Schools.

A moment of silence was observed and letters of sympathy will be sent to their families.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m., by voice vote.

Dr. Albert F. Argenziano
Secretary